



Pre-ASA Workshop in Atlanta

American Community Survey *in the Classroom*

Workshop: *Using American Community Survey Data in the Classroom*
August 12-13, 2010 (prior to ASA Annual Meeting)
Atlanta, GA (Site TBD)

To: Undergraduate Sociology Instructors
From: William Frey

Beginning in 2005, the Census Bureau's annual American Community Survey (ACS) has begun replacing the decennial census in providing the social, economic, and demographic information once found in the "long form." While the ACS provides researchers and students with several advantages over the once-a-decade census, it is important for instructors to understand differences in the sampling design and its implications.

ACS data have the capability to provide instructors with fresh, user-friendly statistics to support and reinforce key concepts in relevant, user-friendly ways in such courses as Intro Sociology, Social Problems, Stratification, Race Relations, the Family, Sociology of Aging, Population, and more. The ACS sample of 3 million households offers usable statistics for geographic areas greater than 65,000 (cities, counties, states) and small population groups (e.g. detailed race/ethnic groups). Furthermore, multi-year estimates offer usable statistics for even smaller areas. These additional capabilities provide new opportunities for instructors.

Workshop participants will be introduced to the resources of SSDAN in "hands on" training sessions and work with SSDAN staff to begin developing easy-to-use classroom exercises specific to their own courses. Workshop time will be divided between seminar discussions, practice exploring the SSDAN materials, and working with staff to develop individual exercises.

The faculty will include sociologist-demographer William Frey of the Brookings Institution and University of Michigan's Population Studies Center and other selected individuals.

Instructors from all social science disciplines who teach undergraduate courses in four-year colleges, two-year colleges, or universities, both public and private, are invited to apply. Primary consideration will be given to those participants who are willing to develop class exercises from the SSDAN materials and use them in their classes during the year subsequent to the workshop. Participants are expected to attend the full workshop from 10AM-5PM, August 12 and 9AM-5PM, August 13.

Expenses: Participants will receive a modest honorarium of \$500 (\$300 for attending, \$200 for creating and sharing a classroom exercise). Participants are responsible for arranging and funding travel and accommodations, although we are working with ASA to extend rates for conference hotels to workshop attendees.

To Apply: Complete and submit application found at <http://ssdan.net/training/> by June 4, 2010.

About SSDAN

Since 1994, SSDAN has undertaken a number of projects funded by FIPSE, NSF and other sources to reducing the "quantitative reasoning gap." SSDAN resources are designed to provide instructors with courseware, tools and online support that enable them to introduce data analysis modules into early and middle level substantive courses. By collaborating with individual faculty and working with whole departments in the Integrating Data Analysis project with the American Sociological Association, SSDAN has demonstrated that classroom friendly course modules can infuse quantitative reasoning across the curriculum. It has popularized the use of US Census data for this purpose.

Located within the Population Studies Center of the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research, SSDAN is known for its expertise in creating resources that simplify large collections of data from the decennial US Census and American Community Survey, providing descriptions of demographic groups and geographic areas that are relevant to a variety of courses and disciplines. Examples of SSDAN datasets and learning modules can be found at <http://ssdan.net/datacounts/>.